



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

61

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,456	07/16/2003	Thomas William Ryan III	P-17.144	7711
7590	04/22/2005		EXAMINER	
Ted D. Lee Gunn, Lee & Hanor, PC Suite 1500 700 N. St. Mary's St. San Antonio, TX 78205				SOLIS, ERICK R
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3747		
DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/619,456	Applicant(s) RYAN ET AL.
	Examiner Erick R Solis	Art Unit 3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,7-9 and 14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1,2,4,7-9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2004/0011322 to Gerhardt. Gerhardt teaches an engine having two embodiments one having port fuel injection, the other being direct fuel injection. In each of these two embodiments certain cylinders may be disabled by shutting of the intake and exhaust valves. See the abstract, paragraphs 4-7, 17,20,23,24,41,43,48 and 54.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 11 November 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In particular, regarding the 35 USC 102(e) rejection of claims 1,2,4,7-9 and 14,

as being anticipated by Gerhardt, applicant argues that Gerhardt does not teach variable valve actuation. The examiner's position is that being able to selectively shut on and off certain of the intake and exhaust valves is a form of "variable valve actuation", furthermore being able to continuously vary the valve timing and or duration is already known in the art. Applicant also argues that Gehrhardt does not teach a stoichiometric mixture. The examiner disagrees since Gerhardt's homogeneous mode of operation is stoichiometric, see paragraph 12. Regarding the EGR system, Gerhardt does make reference to an EGR system at paragraph 54, and since there appears to be nothing in applicant's EGR system which is unconventional, the argument that Gerhardt does not teach that particular type of EGR system is not persuasive.

5. Regarding the 35 USC 102(e) rejection of claims 9-14 as being anticipated by Yoshizawa et al, although this reference does apply to a gasoline engine (col. 5, lines 35-41) and does include a high energy ignition system (Fig. 1, 40, spark plug) it does not appear to teach selectively activating and de-activating the combustion chambers, as now claimed. For this reason said rejection has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erick R Solis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4853. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.


Erick R Solis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747

ers
April 18, 2005